THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO BUREAU OFFICE. JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ONLY

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE WHEN MADE:	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:	REPORT MADE BY:
Chicago, Ill.	Dec. 10, 1923	Nov. 12, 1923 to Dec. 3, 1923	THOS. F. MULLEN

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:

X I. W. W. FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION X RADICAL ACTIVITIES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10/25/82 BY SP6 Bja/Bwy

FACTS DEVELOPED:

AT CHICAGO ILLINOIS:

This Convention which was constantly attended by either Agent KAHN, or Agent of this office, convened on the 12th day of November at EMMET MEMORIAL HALL, Taylor Street & Ogden Avenue, Chicago. The Convention closed in the afternoon of December 3rd. There were in all 26 delegates present who had a total voting power of 1180 votes. This voting power is supposed to represent the strength of the I. W. W. Organization and, while there seems to be a difference of opinion as to how these votes were arrived at, it was stated from the floor of the Convention on several occasions that the approximate membership of the entire I. W. W. Organization was about 40,000 members. When talking to any of the officials of the organization with respect to the exact number in the I.W.W., they will undoubtedly tell you that they have close on to 70,000, or 80,000 members, which is actually doubling their membership.

This Convention published daily a printed minute, which contained the resolutions, and other reports whether acted on favorably or not. Of course, the minutes do not show the arguments pro and con of the various delegates on each resolution, or motion put to the Convention. This Convention was similar

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

DEC 27 1923

FILE NO. 61-1225-70

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 13 1923
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

61-1225

ROUTED TO: HOOVER

FILE

RECORDED & INDEXED

REFERENCE:

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Washington-2, Chicago-2

TFM:FN

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—1169

in almost every detail to the convention held in November 1922. It seemed that no motion, regardless of how important it might be, could be put to the convention without a great deal of wrangling, and debating. This unnecessary wrangling, and debating was one of the reasons for the great length of time that this Convention consumed. The organization will print in a book form the minutes of this convention, and will be off the press about the 15th of December, at which time copies of the minutes will be forwarded to the Washington Office for their information.

A great number of motions, and resolutions were presented to this convention, and Agent will only touch upon those that might seem of interest.

The resolution was introduced and passed whereby the present G.E.B. be abolished, and the main officials of the organization will consist of the following officers: Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, and Chairman of the G.O.C. of the various Industrial Unions of the entire organization, and who are to comprise the G.E.B.; that one of the members of the General Organization Committee is to be elected as a Chairman of the G.O.C., and that he will remain at headquarters at all times, working in conjunction with the Secretary-Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. This resolution will be put on the Referendum Ballot for the approval of the entire organization; that if it fails to carry, the present G.E.B. in its functioning power will continue.

Another resolution, or rather several communications signed by C. E. RUTHENBURG, representing the COMMUNIST PARTY, were read on the floor of the Convention, as well as a request, and a cablegram from the RED TRADE UNION INTERNATIONAL, requesting that ROBERT MINOR, and JAMES P. CANNON be allowed to speak on the floor of the Convention. The motion was carried that they be re-

fused the floor, but on a day or two later, the motion was rescinded, and both ROBERT MINOR, and JAMES P. CANNON spoke. Their talks were along the line of communist nature, and particularly inviting the I. W. W. Members in a controversy between the communist activities and the I. W. W. A special request was made to have the I. W. W. members, sand two, or three delegates to the next Red International, which will be held in MOSCOW. They also spoke with reference to organizing a Communist Party, and the I. W. W. together to fight the Syndicalist laws in the United States. Each of these speakers spoke thirty minutes.

A resolution was then put before the Convention as to whether or not the I. W.W. would accept the invitation of sending delegates to the next RED TRADE UNION INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, and motion was lost, and the I. W. W. will not be represented.

The CHAPLIN, FOREST EDWARDS, and BRAZIER matter was taken up by this Convention as to whether or not they should be expelled from the organization, and not permitted to hold any office in the organization. This matter caused a debate which lasted for approximately three days, and it necessitated witnesses coming to the convention from all over the country, principally from the East.

Kane, and Blossom from New York, and New Jersey, seemed to be the bone of contention, they contending that they represented the I. W. W. prisoners now in Leavenworth, and they produced letters, and other data to this effect. They further contended that CHAPLIN, EDWARDS, and others who accepted the presidential commutation had no right to represent the I. W. W. prisoners in Leavenworth, and by accepting the presidential commutation had broken the principles of solidarity. Both Kane and Blossom, principally Blossom, were accused on the floor of the convention of being stool pigeons for the Department of Justice,

and Blossom was even accused of framing a telegram which was sent to the Attorney General in Washington, D.C., the telegram in question was supposed to be sent by CHAPLIN from the Leavenworth Penitentiary relative to General Amnesty. The motion was put to a vote and was carried against CHAPLIN, EDWARDS, BRAZIER, and others in favor of KANE, and BLOSSOM, but later on in the day was rescinded, with the recommendation that both BLOSSOM and KANE, and any others who tried to cause dissension in the organization, with respect to general amnesty, be expelled.

This present Convention seemed to bring to the surface the fact that the various I. W. W. prisoners now in Leavenworth, are very much dissatisfied with the present GENERAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE, and the personnel thereof to such an extent that the prisoners in Leavenworth have written letters, to the effect that they are being double-crossed by HARRY FEINBERG, the Secretary-Treasurer, and other members of the Committee.

This Convention also brought to the surface that there is considerable ill feeling existing among the Agricultural Workers Union, and the Marine Transport Workers, as was evidenced by the continual personalities indulged in by the various delegates of these Industrial Unions on the floor of the Convention. The present financial condition of the Marine Transport Workers is very bad. They are over $40,000 in debt, and it was stated by the delegates of this Industrial Union that if they do not get some financial assistance immediately from the General Organization, they will be unable to carry on the general organization of the Marine Transport Workers throughout the world. It seemed that every move they attempted to make was balked, principally by the Agricultural Workers at this Convention.

The following are the candidates for the office of Secretary-Treasurer:

TOM CONNORS of INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 110
J.I.TURNER " " " " 120
J.J.McMURPHY " " " " 120

and the following candidates for Assistant Secretary-Treasurer:

FRED FISHER of INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 110
TOM WALLACE " " " " 110
JOE WEIGHT " " " " 310

The nominations for the General Organization are:

JOE FISHER of INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 110
J. A. GRIFFITH " " " 310
EDWIN KRIER " " " 120

Twenty one names were nominated for the G.E.B., seven of which are to be elected to this G.E.B., providing the present G.E.B. and its functioning power is not abolished by the rank and file.

JOE FISHER of the AGRICULTURAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION NO. 110 was the Chairman of this Convention.

As soon as the headquarters have printed the minutes in book form of this Convention, same will be forwarded to Washington as stated above.

CONTINUED.